

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 11222 010226Z

62

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

OPIC-06 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01 L-03 /063 W

----- 123479

O 010122Z MAY 76

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 11222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:

INFORMAL REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN
AT THE LUNCHEON AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE APRIL 30: SECRETARY
KISSINGER: " I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE BY PRESIDENT FORD IN ORDER
TO PUT SOME EMPHASIS BEHIND OUR AFRICAN POLICY. IT IS NECESSARY
THAT OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA, THOSE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA THAT HAVE
STOOD WITH US, HAVE A PLATFORM AROUND WHICH THEY CAN RALLY, AND
IT IS NECESSARY ALSO THAT WE HAVE A PROGRAM IN THE NAME OF WHICH
WE CAN RESIST SOVIET AND CUBAN AND OTHER PENETRATION OF THIS
CONTINENT. THOSE OF YOU WHO WORK HERE WILL APPRECIATE THAT WE
CANNOT SIMPLY WRITE OFF AFRICA, ONE OF THE GREATEST, ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT CONTINENTS, WITH CLOSE LINKS TO EUROPE, WITH
HISTORICAL LINKS TO THE UNITED STATES AND YOU, THEREFORE, HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND MY TRIP THROUGH THIS AREA AS AN ATTEMPT TO PUT SOME NEW
VITALITY INTO OUR RELATIONSHIPS. SECONDLY, I KNOW THAT IN THIS
COUNTRY, AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 11222 010226Z

IN FACT, YOU'RE ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

WE LIVE IN A CURIOUS SITUATION IN THE WORLD IN WHICH AMERICAN PRIVATE CAPITAL OR ALL PRIVATE CAPITAL IS SORT OF FROWNED UPON AND GOVERNMENTAL AID IS EAGERLY SOUGHT AND THE ARGUMENT AGAINST PRIVATE CAPITAL IS THAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO INTERFERE IN THE POLITICS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. K DON'T WANT TO BE OFFENSIVE TO A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED BUSINESSMEN, BUT MOST BUSINESSMEN THAT I HAVE MET DON'T KNOW ENOUGH POLITICS TO INTERFERE IN IT. AND SECONDLY, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT'S GOVERNMENTAL AID THAT CAN BE USED FOR INTERFERENCE MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN PRIVATE CAPITAL. BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS PRIVATE CAPITAL, REALLY, WHICH IS IN MUCH LARGER SUPPLY AND WHICH, IF THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT, CAN FLOW MUCH MORE EASILY, AND IF ONE LOOKS AT THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BUILT THEMSELVES UP RAPIDLY, IT HAS ALMOST INVARIABLY BEEN DONE BY PRIVATE FOREIGN CAPITAL AND NOT BY GOVERNMENTAL FOREIGN CAPITAL. SO, I'M GLAD THAT AMERICAN PRIVATE CAPITAL IS SO ACTIVE IN A COUNTRY LIKE LIBERIA. I UNDERSTAND THAT DOING BUSINESS HERE HAS ITS EXCITEMENT AND GETTING RAPID DECISIONS IS NOT THE EASIEST MATTER IN THE WORLD. I HAVE GREAT SYMPATHY WITH YOU BECAUSE I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. GETTING RAPID DECISIONS AT TIMES IS NOT AN EASY MATTER FOR ME. IN FACT, IF I DIDN'T TAKE THESE OCCASIONAL TRIPS, I WOULD NOT ONLY NOT GET TO MAKE DECISIONS, I WOULD HAVE REAL TROUBLE FINDING OUT WHAT IS GOING ON. BUT, I REALLY HOPE YOU WILLHANG IN THERE AND NOT GET DISCOURAGED. EVERY COUNTRY HAS ITS CULTURAL MODE OF PROCEEDINGS AND THEY'RE NOT ALWAYS OURS, BUT I BELIEVE THAT PRIVATE CAPITAL SIDE BY SIDE WITH SPECIFIC AID PROJECTS WHICH WE CAN ENGAGE IN CAN HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AND NEXT WEEK IN NAIROBI, I'M GOING TO MAKE A PROPOSAL WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PRIVATE CAPITAL TO WORK IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES OR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, OR WHATEVER THE TERM IS THAT IS NOW BEING USED. TO MAKE IT EASIER BECAUSE OF OUR PROFOUND CONVICTION THAT IT IS THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT CAN MOVE MORE EASILY AND HAVE MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. FOR THESE REASONS, I AM GLAD THAT THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU AND TO WISH YOU WELL AND TO TELL YOU THAT I THINK YOU'VE BEEN HELPING YOUR COMPANIES, YOU'RE ALSO HELPING THE UNITED STATES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. "

QUESTION BY MR. LEPAGE OF FIRESTONE: "MR. SECRETARY, WHERE DO YOU FEEL THAT OPIC INSURANCE MIGHT COME INTO THIS PICTURE. THIS IS ONE IN WHICH I AM A BUSINESSMAN FROM THE UNITED STATES; I DON'T LIVE HERE, BUT IT'S ONE THATS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US MAKING INVESTMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 11222 010226Z

OF HAVING SOME INSURANCE ON THAT INVESTMENT, AND THERE IS TREMENDOUS TALK, MORE AND MORE OF IT BUILDING UP THAT THIS WILL EITHER BE ELIMINATED OR MOVED INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AT A COST THAT MIGHT BE PROHIBITIVE TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN A COUNTRY SUCH AS THIS. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ON THAT?"

4. KISSINGER: " ON THE QUESTION OF GUARANTEEING INVESTMENTS, I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT ELIMINATING OPIC. I'M GOING TO PROPOSE AT NAIROBI NEXT WEEK A SCHEME BY WHICH I WILL GO INTO

GREAT DETAIL, BY WHICH AN INSTITUTION IS SET UP IN WHICH
PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAN BE GUARANTEED AS A MEANS OF MAKING IT
POSSIBLE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENTS TO GO INTO UNCERTAIN SITUATIONS
IN WHICH THEY SUFFER FROM THE DANGER OF EXPROPRIATION AND OTHER
HARDSHIPS AND IT IS NOT STRICTLY SPEAKING AN INSURANCE SCHEME,
BUT IT HAS THE SAME PRACTICAL EFFECT AS AN INSURANCE SCHEME AND
IT IS ON A BROADER BASE THAN OPIC WAS AND I THINK YOU WILL FIND
IT AS A STIMULUS TO INVESTMENT AND AS AN ASSURANCE FOR
AMERICAN BUSINESS."
KISSINGER

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